



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 16 2002

OFFICE OF THE  
ADMINISTRATOR

**MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB)/EPA Workshop on the Benefits of  
Reductions in Exposure to Hazardous Air Pollutants: Developing Best Estimates  
of Dose-Response Functions (SAB Report No. EPA-SAB-EC-WKSHP-02-001)

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TO: Robert Brenner, Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

William Farland, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development

Albert McGartland, Director  
National Center for Environmental Economics

The purpose of this memorandum is twofold: (1) to transmit the attached report documenting the results of a joint EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB)/EPA Workshop held in Washington, DC, on June 22 and 23, 2000; and (2) to present our current views on common themes and promising next steps for exploration, based on the discussions held at the workshop.

Based on the report of the workshop, we believe the following are exploratory activities that may hold promise for progress on this issue.<sup>1</sup>

1. Identification of specific chemicals as pilots for intensive interactions between risk assessors and benefits assessors to identify and refine understanding of the information truly needed for benefits assessment and explore ways to provide them.

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<sup>1</sup> Steps in this direction (Recommendations #1 and #2) are being taken within the Agency through a joint scientist/economist-led effort during the Spring of 2001 [collaboration between Richard Hill (OPPTS) and Dan Axelrad (OPEI)]. A team of risk assessors and benefit assessors are applying their disciplinary skills and insights to specific chemicals.

2. Cross-training between risk assessors and benefits assessors.
3. Widening the dialogue by establishing a session (or a Special Interest Group) on these matters within the Society for Risk Analysis, including all-comers: i.e., scientists, economists, and non-economic social scientists, as appropriate.
4. Considering a Request For Application (RFA) under the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Grants program that would focus on this problem.

We look forward to talking with you at a future Science Policy Council Meeting about these recommendations that could improve benefits assessments not only for the Office of Air and Radiation, but also for the Agency as a whole.

Attachment